

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL CANADA



45TH

1976-2021

ANNIVERSARY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Barbara Catt RN, BScN MEd CIC
President-Elect: Zahir Hirji RN, BScN, MHS, CIC
Secretary/Membership Director: Jennifer Happe BSc, MSc
Treasurer: Michael Rotstein RN, MHSc, CIC, CHE

DIRECTORS

Director (Education): Kim Allain BScN, RN, MHS, CIC
Director (Standards and Guidelines): Madeleine Ashcroft RN, BScN, MHS, CIC
Director (MD): Joseph Kim MD FRCPC
Director (Chapters and Interest Groups): Stephania Cloutier, BES BASc CPHI(c) CIC
Director (Programs and Projects): Baljinder Sidhu RN, BScN, CIC, MPH
Public Representative: Stephen Palmer

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICE

Executive Director: Gerry Hansen BA
Administrative Assistant : Kelli Wagner

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VISION

No preventable infections for Canadians. Ever.

MISSION

We inspire, nurture and advance a culture committed to infection prevention and control.

VALUES STATEMENTS

Integrity: Principled, ethical and respectful in all our activities.
Collaboration: Open and inclusive in dealing with our partners and stakeholders.
Advocacy: Advancement of evidence informed practices to protect our consumers.
Innovation: Creative and responsive in meeting the membership's needs.
Leadership: Effective and accountable in proactively pursuing our mission.

IPAC CANADA - The smart way to advance infection prevention and control best practice every day.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OFFICER REPORTS

President.....	4
President-Elect.....	6
Treasurer.....	7
Secretary/Membership Director.....	8

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standards and Guidelines.....	12
Education.....	13
Programs and Projects.....	16
Chapters and Interest Groups.....	19
Director MD.....	20
Public Representative.....	21
Canadian Journal of Infection Control.....	21
Operations Report.....	22

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barbara Catt, RN BScN MEd CIC

The COVID-19 pandemic created a situation in IPAC Canada whereby all our member leaders had to demonstrate their flexibility and creativity through virtual discussions instead of in-person meetings. While in-person meetings provide an opportunity for extended conversation and networking, it is interesting that the work of IPAC Canada continued and even expanded in the past year. The responsibilities of the President likewise continued, with some interesting additions to that role. Following is a summary of my IPAC Canada activities in 2020.

Certification Board of Infection Control Activities

In January 2020, I participated in the CBIC Board meeting in San Antonio, Texas. One of the main topics of discussion was the French certification exam which is due for renewal and, due to the low uptake, CBIC has suggested it be cancelled. The Canadian representative, Sandra Callery, and I made the case that the French exam is seen as necessary for the Canadian Nurses Association (C.N.A.) to acknowledge infection prevention and control (IPAC) as its own domain of nursing. CBIC has agreed to expand promotion of the French examination to bilingual colleagues so its acknowledgement by C.N.A. will continue.

The remainder of the 2020 CBIC meetings were held on a virtual platform. In October, Sandra Callery was named President-elect. A new feature is live remote proctoring for the exam and digital badging which will allow organizations to immediately see a certificant's location, work experience and certification date.

In July, August and September, I participated in the CBIC Marketing Committee Conference Call or virtual meetings. The "Dare to Test" campaign focused around COVID19 and the importance of CIC® and a-IPC® certification. The a-IPC officially launched in July and 2,000 individuals expressed interest through the sign up.

Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) Activities:

Prior to March 2020, discussions at the CPHO Health Professions Forum focused on its immediate goals of Indigenous Health, Mental Health, and Antimicrobial Resistance. During the pandemic, meetings consisted of updates from various groups such as the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) strategy for COVID-19 immunization.

IPAC Canada Activities

I chaired the search and selection process for the appointment of a new Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Infection Control. The Board of Directors was very pleased to appoint Dr. James Ayukekbong as Editor, supported by Dr. Devon Metcalf as Associate Editor. We are grateful for the service of Victoria Williams as the past Editor.

In 2021, I will chair the review of the document: Core Competencies for ICPs. This document was scheduled for review in 2020 but has been tabled to 2021. I am also participating on the review committee for the Program-Wide Standard. This too has been tabled to 2021.

After an extensive call for proposals, the Board renewed our agreement with BUKSA Conferences to act as coordinators of our 2022-2024 conferences.

Strategic Plan Initiatives:

Strategic Direction 1: *INSPIRE BRAND AWARENESS*

Demand for IPAC expertise has extended to the delivery of presentations for various groups. As well as several media interviews, I presented IPAC updates to several groups. Of special interest during 2020 National Infection Control Week, Director (Standards & Guidelines) Madeleine Ashcroft and I participated in a panel discussion on international COVID-19 response for the Infection Prevention Society of the UK.

I undertook the following media interviews, session presentations or writing of articles:

- Canadian Journal of Infection Control – Introduction to 'Front Line Heroes' Supplement
- Canadian Journal of Infection Control – Editorial on the use of resources
- MediaPlanet/Metro Toronto – September Immunization Issue – Article on Return to School
- Hospital News – Cover Story on Infection Control, September 2020
- Association News – Editorial in spring and fall issues
- Association of RNs of Manitoba – Webinar – IPAC update on COVID-19
- Health Europa – Interview and Article re IPAC I Canada
- Canadian Nursing Students Association – Webinar – The nursing perspective about pandemics and a global perspective on nursing and healthcare.
- CBC Calgary – Overview of IPAC practices (a general discussion on practice, not a specific comment on an Alberta outbreak)

Strategic Direction 2: *NURTURE MEMBER VALUE AND ENGAGEMENT*

As was everyone else, IPAC Canada was blind-sided by the pandemic and had to quickly refocus to ensure our visibility as IPAC experts. At the same time, we strived to maintain communication with our members to assure them of our support and gratitude. The goal to provide an opportunity for member involvement in IPAC Canada activities continued, noting that the first virtual Annual General Meeting was held in May 2020.

Engagement of our members was sought through a strategy to determine member needs and satisfaction through a series of short surveys. Short surveys were distributed in the spring (Education), one in the fall (website) and one in winter 2020 (Publications). The committee, comprised of myself, Directors Jennifer Happe and Kim Allain, and Executive Director Gerry Hansen are developing a 2021 series of short surveys.

Finally, and with all the emotion generated by the service of our members and their colleagues, the Board of Directors and other IPAC Canada leaders created a thank you video to acknowledge ICPs, and other healthcare providers during the pandemic.

Strategic Direction 3: *ADVANCE ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP*

With Jennifer Happe and Gerry Hansen, and the support of Rob LeForte, our Government Relations Consultant, I participated on a conference call with Katherine Nowers, Policy Development Assistant to Minister Hajdu. We discussed pandemic pay and IPAC funding. This advocacy and partnership work continues in 2021.

I acted as a resource to complete submissions to the 2021 Federal Pre-Budget Submission, the briefs about pandemic pay and IPAC funding, and in our discussions around diversity.

With Gerry Hansen, I participated on introductory discussions with Centennial College on the possibility of launching their IPAC-on-the-Go education program nationally and in partnership.

I assisted in the development of guidelines by the office of the Chief Public Health Officer for acute care and long-term care.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the IPAC Canada Board of Directors, our strong association leadership, and our staff. Finally, I thank you, our members, for your support of IPAC Canada in the past year and your dedicated care of patients, residents and staff.



PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

Zahir Hirji, RN BScN MHS CIC

It has been my pleasure to serve as the IPAC Canada President-elect in 2020. In normal years, this would be a year of learning and preparing to take over the role of President. In 2020, that motivation continued but was tempered by the challenges presented by the pandemic in both our professional and volunteer lives. It has been a very challenging but extremely fulfilling year.

It is time to review IPAC Canada's current Strategic Plan. To prepare, the Board appointed Impact Public Affairs to facilitate the process of developing the Strategic Plan 2022-2024. We anticipate that our existing relationship with Impact Public Affairs will assist in creating a more robust Strategic Plan to take the association and our membership into the future. More detail regarding the decisions and actions of the Board of Directors with regards to the Strategic Plan 2019-2021 can be found in the Operations Report.

Although IPAC Canada has had a successful relationship with its Conference Coordinators, BUKSA Conferences + Associations, for several years, the Board agreed that good governance required an effort to consider proposals for future Conference Coordinators. Requests for proposals were sent out to several conference planning companies, and a short list was interviewed by a committee of the Board. As a result of this effort, the Board has reconfirmed its appointment of BUKSA Conferences + Associations for an additional three conference contract, 2022-2024.

IPAC Canada held its annual Hill Day in February 2020. Eleven members of the Board and members-at-large met in Ottawa to conduct a series of meetings with parliamentarians on Parliament Hill. The focus of the 2020 Hill Day was AMR. This advocacy brought attention to the global issue of AMR, the need for a robust infection prevention and control surveillance system, and the role of the ICP in all those efforts. Little did we know then that, two weeks after Hill Day, the World Health Organization would declare COVID-19 a pandemic, and our ICPs were needed more than ever.

In late 2020, as witness to difficult situations around the world the Board addressed the issue of diversity, in particular in healthcare as it relates to IPAC Canada. A public statement reinforced IPAC Canada is committed to supporting diversity, especially to promote greater inclusion of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) in our profession. We condemn racism and racial injustice in all its forms and will take concerted action to ensure racial bias and discrimination is addressed in all of our work, including educational events and other programs. As a result of that commitment, a committee has been formed to implement a 'Diversity, Equality, Inclusion' webpage which will address healthcare, especially in infection prevention and control, in Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and BIPOC communities.

I thank the Board of Directors for their proactive consideration of all matters that affect our association and our members. I especially thank Barbara Catt for her mentorship during the past year, and our staff, Gerry Hansen and Kelli Wagner, for their dedicated and never-ending support.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2021



TREASURER'S REPORT

Michael Rotstein, RN MHS CIC CHE



2020 has been an incredible year. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us with opportunities to support each other in new ways and has provided an international public view of the importance of infection prevention. We rely on each other for networking, education, and sharing of knowledge and resources. With the reach of the pandemic, the opportunity to increase our membership footprint has increased significantly. We continue to ensure that we critically assess our funding opportunities and our expenses to ensure we meet the needs of the membership, our sponsors, and our national and international stakeholders.

The cancellation of our annual education conference had a significant impact on our finances this year, as the conference represents our single largest revenue and expense item. IPAC Canada is working to plan new virtual offerings with the work of our Scientific Program Committee in 2021. The Board has continued to balance priorities to facilitate the development of a positive balance budget in 2021 to continue our path towards improved financial health. We made significant changes to several budget lines for 2021, particularly related to the conference and the elimination of travel in the upcoming year. The pandemic has had an overall positive effect on our budget, primarily related to a decrease in planned expenses. We finished the 2020 year in a positive balance. The details of our financial status can be found in the audited financial statements.

As my second term on the Board comes to a close, I would like to thank the Board of Directors, chapter treasurers; Kelli Wagner, Administrative Assistant; Phil Romaniuk, our auditor; Cindy Pelletier and Katrina Rose, our bookkeepers; and Gerry Hansen, Executive Director for their diligence to support the financial health of our organization. It has been an honour to serve the organization as the Finance Director and look forward to positive future of IPAC Canada.

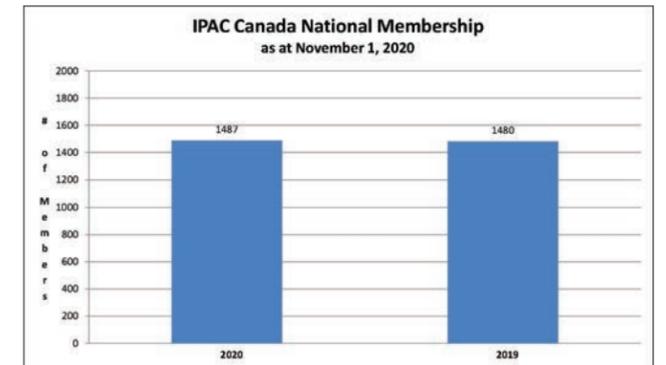
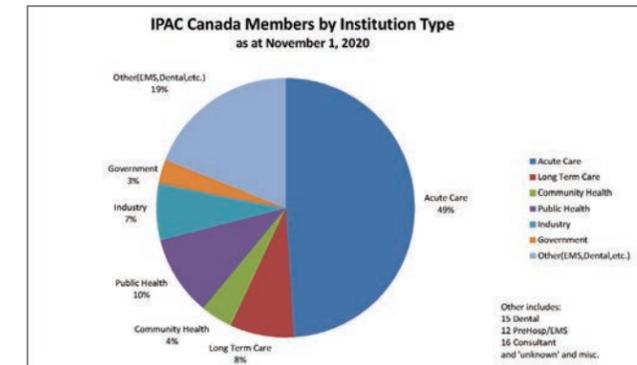
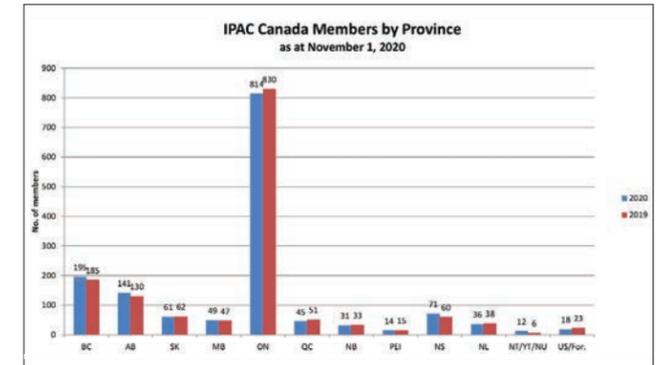
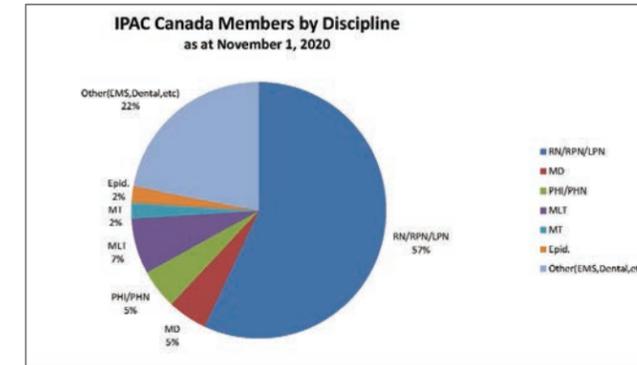


SECRETARY & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REPORT

Jennifer Happe, BSc MSc

As Membership Director, I participate on the Membership and Mentorship Committees. I act as a liaison between these Committees and the Board. It has been a productive year despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. Guided by the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, efforts in 2020 focused on increasing awareness of IPAC Canada's value and benefits and on increasing membership engagement for growth and sustainability. Here are some highlights:

- You asked, we listened. Group Membership was introduced to replace the Institutional Membership category. Group Membership allows employees of health care related institutions who work at the same physical site, or report to the same Direct Supervisor, to purchase a collective membership.
- The pandemic highlighted the importance of IPAC in long-term care (LTC) settings. To support members and non-members alike, the IPAC Canada LTC Surveillance Toolkit, adapted from Public Health Ontario, was released to support the entire surveillance process. The Toolkit contains tools to assess readiness to conduct surveillance, staff training and tools to support data collection and validation using the IPAC Canada LTC case definitions, and a Microsoft Excel database set up to store data, automatically calculate infection rates and to prepare tables and figures of infection rates and epidemiologic curves for reporting.
- A new benefit of participating as a mentor in the Mentorship Program is that mentors will receive Infection Prevention Unit (IPU) credits towards their Certification in Infection Control (CIC) recertification.
- Advocacy efforts continued through the pandemic. Efforts included a letter campaign for pandemic pay from provincial and territorial governments, vaccine reporting and vaccine hesitancy during Parliament Hill Day, and combating misinformation through news media interviews and podcasts, for example, National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases' 'Infectious Questions' podcast to share current challenges for frontline personnel and foundational skills to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



As a member of IPAC Canada, you have access to the latest evidence-based information to assist you in your work in any setting. As a member of IPAC Canada you are demonstrating your commitment to professional development and maintaining a high level of competency through knowledge exchange, networking and contributing to a strong national infection prevention and control culture. I encourage every member to take full advantage of your membership with IPAC Canada: contribute to a committee, participate in chapter and interest group activities, gather knowledge and strategies at a webinar or workshop, utilize audit tools and e-learning modules to improve local IPAC practices, share your work through a Canadian Journal of Infection Control (CJIC) or Association News publication.

In my role as Secretary, I participate in both Executive Officer and general Board meetings. I am responsible for recording minutes at the spring Annual General Meeting (AGM) and fall in-camera meeting. I perform all other legal duties required of the Secretary of IPAC Canada. I coordinate the election process with the Executive Director at the AGM, including organizing member registration and voting. The pandemic prevented an in person AGM and elections this past year. However, we transitioned to a virtual AGM. My heartfelt thanks go to Gerry and Kelli who helped register members for the 2020 AGM and for supporting a smooth virtual election process.

It has been a pleasure serving as Membership Director and Secretary this past year, to assist in the development of our organization and to watch the progress we have made, despite the pandemic. My sincere thanks go to all those whose diligent efforts served to increase member value and engagement in 2020.

OFFICER REPORTS

Membership Core Committee Members: Jacqueline Hlagi (Chair), Jeffrey Eruvwetaghware, Jennifer Happe, Heather MacLaurin, Annie Lord-Stephens

The mandate of the committee is to develop and promote communication methods and offerings to increase and maintain IPAC Canada membership. At the request of the Board or the Executive Director, the committee also provides input on new initiatives and projects. Normally, the Core Committee and the Membership Committee (comprised of one representative from each chapter) meet in person at the IPAC Canada National Education Conference, and by teleconference each fall. With the challenges surrounding the pandemic, these meetings were postponed. The Core Committee met by teleconference call when possible.

At the request of the Board, the Core Committee provided input into replacing the former Institutional Membership category with a new Group Membership option. Whereas Institutional Members in the past all had to work at the same physical site, Group Membership allows for those not working at the same site to join a Group, provided they all report to the same Direct Supervisor. We anticipate this will assist us in our efforts to retain members.

The 'Bring in a New Member' contest continues to be an incentive to recruit new members, as does the discounted First-Time Individual membership rate. The association welcomed just over 160 new members in 2020, and we thank all members who have been encouraging their colleagues to join us. Efforts to promote IPAC Canada membership within the long-term care sector have also resulted in an uptick in memberships, which we hope will continue into the new year. IPAC Canada Secretary/Membership director Jennifer Happe designed a Long-Term Care infographic customized to outline the benefits of membership, which is posted on our web site.

The committee looks forward to hopefully meeting with more frequency in 2021. Please accept our thanks for your input and suggestions. We also wish outgoing member Heather MacLaurin all the best in her future endeavours.

Mentorship Program Report **Chair: Jeffrey Eruvwetaghware**

The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the activities of the mentorship program in 2020. Notwithstanding, we had two people apply to be mentors and 11 requests from mentees. We also had a webinar on the mentorship program to provide an overview and highlight the benefits for members.

The greatest challenge for the Mentorship Program continues to be that of recruiting mentors. The IPAC Canada website and IPAC Canada meetings have done much to encourage people to step forward as mentors. Unfortunately, the numbers have been small. As a result, we have less ability to match mentor strengths with mentee needs. We also have mentees waiting to be paired with a mentor. IPAC Canada in 2020 introduced an incentive with providing CIC credits for mentors. It is hoped the strategy will encourage more mentors to come forward as participation will allow mentors qualify for credits when renewing their CIC

In the new year, the Mentorship Committee will look at implementing a 2 to 4 week timeline for matching mentees. In addition, we look at exemplifying the benefits of the mentorship program with a case study publication in the association news to promote the mentorship program.

The IPAC Canada Mentorship Program is a valuable resource for our members, and I am positive it will continue to grow in the coming years.





STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

Madeleine Ashcroft, RN BScN MHS CIC

In my role as a Director of IPAC Canada, I serve as liaison with the Standards and Guidelines Committee. I concurrently serve as the Chair of the Standards and Guidelines Committee, comprised of one representative from each chapter, and a Core Committee of additional members. The committee's mandate is to recommend to the IPAC Canada Board of Directors an official position on standards and guidelines which have an impact on infection prevention and control, and to promote IPAC Canada representation on expert panels and liaison with other professional organizations.

In 2020, the committee met four times by teleconference and communicated via email as we navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in our work places and lives. As the Core Committee report below describes, existing position statements and practice recommendations continue to be reviewed at least every three years and opportunities to collaborate with interest groups and external partners with shared interests have been actively sought. We continue to strive to ensure our documents reflect scientific rigor.

Facilitation of the interaction between the Board and the Standards and Guidelines Committee results in timely review and finalization of resources and publications and dissemination to members and external stakeholders, as well as ensuring that the Board is aware of the materials coming forward from interest groups and aligning these with the IPAC Canada mission, vision, values, and strategic and operational plans.

In 2020, I participated in all five board meetings via webinar, as well as discussions on diversity, and the excellent August 27th webinar on bias. I also had the opportunity to participate in the selection process for our strategic planning partners for the year ahead.

Core Committee Members: Dione Kolodka, Clare Barry, Anne Augustin, Lisa Young, France Nadon, Tara Ferguson, and Katherine Paphitis

2020 Initiatives

- Completed review and update of existing Position Statement (PS) on Human Milk, upgrading it to Practice Recommendations and recommended to the Board new PS topics related to COVID-19 (e.g., IPAC Fundamentals for Long-Term Care Settings) which are now under development.
- Reviewed updates to Construction Audit Tool from the Audit Toolkit Review Committee.
- Undertook a recruitment process for a Co-Chair for 2021 for succession planning/smooth transition.

Goals for the coming year:

- To recruit a Co-Chair in January 2021, to assume the Chair position in 2022.
- To continue to ensure all existing statements and recommendations are reviewed at least every three years.
- To continue to utilize our validation process to ensure our statements and recommendations are as scientifically rigorous as possible.
- To continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with Interest Groups (e.g., LTC) and external partners (e.g., foot care nurses, ORNAC).



EDUCATION

Kim Allain, BScN RN MHS CIC

Wasn't 2020 was an extraordinary year? It was a challenging time for our membership as we all worked tirelessly to support our provinces, organizations, patients, as well as our own families, to stay safe from COVID-19. As Director (Education) on the Board of IPAC Canada, I look back on 2020 as one where my learning was endless and my resiliency was tested. Regardless of a pandemic, efforts to drive the strategic plan of IPAC Canada continued and I continued to act diligently as liaison for IPAC Canada's education-related matters. Against all odds, the IPAC Canada education portfolio remained extremely busy during 2020. Following are reports from the various Education Committees. In addition, following are highlights of my year as Director (Education):

- Prior to the pandemic, I was once again honored to take part in Hill Day in Ottawa, advocating for and engaging our politicians around critical issues of antimicrobial resistance and vaccine hesitancy.
- Having to cancel our 2020 IPAC Canada National Education Conference, planned for Winnipeg, Manitoba was a disappointing, but necessary decision. Our conference has always been an annual highlight of participants for shared learning, networking and expanding our knowledge. As an organization, the necessary pandemic restrictions have challenged our traditional thinking on conference programming. In 2021, IPAC Canada will offer its first virtual conference from May 3-5th. The 2021 Scientific Program Committee (SPC) has worked steadily to shift gears to deliver another informative and enlightening program- just in a new format.
- Along with a new name, the distance learning IPAC Canada Essentials in IPAC Course continues to evolve as we respond to unprecedented inquiries and demand. In 2020, the course welcomed 70 novice students in the Fall intake. With the support of the Board and Distance Education Advisory Committee, I participated in work to establish a special accelerated course for the Northwest Territories. In addition, a comprehensive review of the IPAC Canada course was completed and was the impetus to support plans for the inaugural Essentials in IPAC Accelerated Course with a Spring 2021 intake.

I consider myself very privileged to work alongside such a dedicated group of professionals on IPAC Canada's Board of Directors. Special thank you to Gerry and Kelli who worked tirelessly in 2020 to support not only me but the entire Board, committees and interest groups, in meeting our deliverables of our strategic plan. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the education committee chairs Natalie Bruce, Devon Metcalf and Trevor Johnson for their continued leadership over the past year. Your ingenuity and commitment to the organization makes me proud to call you colleagues. To Heather Candon and Jane Van Toen, I extend my thanks for continuing to drive the outstanding success and expansion of the Essentials in IPAC Course. In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to all the committee members, course coordinators, instructors, facilitators who worked tirelessly in 2020 to drive the success of the education portfolio of IPAC Canada. Please refer to the committee reports below for details on their outstanding work.

"A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers." - Helen Keller

Education Core Committee

Committee Members: Natalie Bruce (Chair), Kim Allain (Co-chair) Barb Catt, Lisa Buchanan, Eleanor Elston, Trevor Johnson, Alex Kusiewicz, Gwyneth Myers, Kishori Naik, Heidi O’Grady, Amanda Preachuk.

The purpose of the Education Core Committee (ECC) is to ensure the educational needs of the members are addressed. This committee is made of both the Education Core Committee and all Chapter Education Representatives. This was a year of transition for ECC. We thanked and recognized Isabelle Guerreiro for her many contributions to ECC over the years. We also welcomed new committee members Lisa Buchanan, Kishori Naik, and Amanda Preachuk. The following are some of the key ECC 2020 accomplishments:

Five webinars were supported by ECC and offered with the topics listed below:

- N95 Respirator versus surgical mask clinical data
- Abstract to manuscript
- Medical device reprocessing for dentistry in Canada
- A hospital partnership with a Long-term care home experience-lessons learned
- Infection prevention and control surveillance workshop

ECC developed and launched the first of the series of IPAC Canada short surveys. The focus of the first quarterly survey was to determine the educational needs of the IPAC membership. The survey focused on three questions related to education that allowed respondents to: 1) identify the top three webinar topics of most relevance and interest to them; 2) membership interest in a multi-webinar series on Advanced Skills for ICPs; and 3) further identify which advanced skills they would like to see covered in this webinar series. Eighty-two percent of respondents had indicated interest in a multi-webinar series in advanced skills for ICPs. Respondents also provided topics of interest for future webinars. To meet the needs of the membership, the ECC will focus their efforts this coming year in developing a proposal for an ICP advanced skill educational offering and organize webinars related to the topics of interest as outlined by the members in the survey.

Education Endorsement Review Committee

Chair: Devon Metcalf, Infection Prevention and Control Specialist, Public Health Ontario, Cambridge, ON

The goal of the committee is to assess basic education courses in Infection Prevention and Control for endorsement in accordance with IPAC Canada’s Policy and Procedures.

Committee Members

Eric Devine, Murtuza Diwan, Deb Paton, Lorinda Stuber, Robin Johnson, Katherine Bell, Robin Harry, Mary Salaripour

For the 2020 calendar year, the Education Endorsement Review Committee granted continued endorsement for the following courses:

- IPAC Canada – Full Review
- Queen’s University - Annual Review
- University of British Columbia – Full Review
- Centennial College – Annual Review

The committee also completed a preliminary review of a new course from Bay River College. As of December 31, 2020, the review is ongoing. The committee also drafted an application form for endorsement of standalone practicum-based courses and an application for acknowledgement of courses that don’t meet the criteria for application for endorsement. Checklist review forms for use by the committee for both are in progress.

Distance Education Advisory Committee

Chair: Trevor Johnson A-EMCA CIC

Committee Mandate: To ensure that the Novice ICP course remains current and based on best-practice and meets the educational needs of novice Infection Prevention and Control Practitioners.

Membership: Merlee Steele-Rodway, Michelle Varty, Erica Susky, Sindhu Pillai, Heather Candon (course coordinator), Jane Van Toen (course coordinator), Kim Allain (Education Director)

Committee Membership and Meetings

- The pandemic impacted the regular schedule of AC meetings, but several ad hoc meetings were held Meeting summaries are sent to the AC membership and the Executive Director, IPAC Canada.

Course Management and Content:

- We received a higher than usual number of applications for the 2020-21 class (approximately 150) with the expected variety of backgrounds and geography.
- The increase in admissions to 70 was monitored and reviewed. The quality of students accepted and the integrity of the course was maintained.
- The transition to the Open LMS learning platform continued to work well and new features of the program are being incorporated as the course coordinators become more familiar with the various functions of the program. The new platform has allowed the faculty to easy post videos and more multimedia content to facilitate different modes of learning.
- The improved reflection/survey/evaluation option provided by the new learning platform continues to be an excellent means to collect and summarize student feedback. Summaries are reviewed at the end of each module.
- The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 and the impact on students and faculty resulted in an adjustment of timelines for the 2019-2020 class. Students were required to complete the requirements by July 31, 2020. Many students expressed their thanks for our flexibility and understanding.
- Issues related to Practicum Placements have been an issue for some time e.g., excessive paperwork requirements, securing mentors etc. These were exacerbated by the pandemic. A reflection paper was introduced as an option for the final project. This was well received, and the facilitator reported back on the excellent quality of the papers submitted. This option will remain in place for the final course project.
- A need for timely IPAC training in the Northwest Territories was identified and a special accelerated course was set up for 20 students. Lessons learned from this are being used to set up other accelerated versions of the course. Excellent feedback was received, with weekly virtual drop-in sessions held by the course coordinators.
- All course notes were reviewed and updated to include information related to COVID-19.
- The pandemic has led to an increased demand for IPAC training. To meet the need, an accelerated program is being launched in April 2021 and will run until August. The regular course program will continue as scheduled.
- Documentation for the course full endorsement was submitted and approved in 2020.



PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Baljinder Sidhu, RN BScN CIC MPH

The role of the member of the Director (Programs & Projects) is to act as Board liaison with the Programs & Projects Core Committee. Currently the Director is chairperson of that committee.

Programs & Projects Core Committee (PPCC)

- New additions to the Committee are Kasey Gambeta, she is also the minute taker. Karrie Yausie, Vicky Willet, Sam MacFarlane and Yvette Gable continue to be members, and Past Director Mandy Deeves has offered to stay as participatory member for the meetings.
- A new self-assessment tool based on IPAC Canada's Core Competencies for ICPs has been formatted and posted on the website for members. This tool replaces the current self-audit tool in the IPAC Canada audit toolkit.
- The committee updated the Hand Hygiene - How to Wash Hands poster on the website
- How to hand rub (ABHR) is in draft and will be updated on website once final
- 2020 Ecolab poster contest was hosted by IPAC British Columbia, with the theme of Infection Prevention and Control Beyond the Horizon. The winner was Monika Szabo RN MPH CIC, from Southwestern Public Health, St. Thomas, ON. Monika's poster conceptualizes that IPAC is visionary and looks to the future. We don't know what is on the horizon, but IPAC is prepared to face it with knowledge and best practice.

Future Planning

- There has been discussion on revising the Hand Hygiene Toolkit, the copyright for which has been transferred to IPAC Canada from the Canadian Patient Safety Institute. Public Health Ontario is also interested in updating their Hand Hygiene Toolkit. In order to not create duplication, IPAC Canada will collaborate with Public Health Ontario in the development of a revised Hand Hygiene Toolkit. A committee will be formed in 2021.
- To provide more interest in IPAC Canada through its website, the committee will be working with the Executive Director to develop an 'Our Story' link from the home page. This will begin in 2021 with engaging our longstanding members.
- The Programs and Projects Core Committee will be producing a recipe book to help us connect across the country. The theme of the book will be "My Go-to Recipe for 2020" and we want to fill it with your go-to recipes that bring you a joy during these difficult times. The initial request for recipes will come early 2021.
- The committee will work on marketing the ABHR and How to Wash Hands posters

Audit Toolkit Committee

Chair: Paul Chisholm

Amidst the pandemic, the committee continued to review and revise existing tools, utilizing best practice evidence and feedback from Infection Prevention and Control professionals.

Our priorities have been to update a core number of regularly used audit tools with a focus on the least up to date tools.

Securing a robust, diverse, and creative membership has been one of our priorities, to ensure a continuation and increased productivity of the group. Our committee is fortunate to have the following members: Amanda Dennis (Secretary), Carly Rebelo, Kasey Gambeta, Margaret Cameron, Amanda Brizard, Leanne Wyman, Zu Wang Tang and Alyssa Baade.

Activities during the year

- Revision of the Audit Process (information, instruction, forms)
- Review of the Footcare Audit tool

The following toolkits have been published in 2020:

- Self-Appraisal Tool for Infection Prevention and Control Professionals
- Construction/Renovation Audit Tool

Goals for the coming year

- Continue the revision of the Audit Process (Cover page; Pre-audit Preparation; Setting the Criteria; Closing the Loop; Instructions for Completing Audit Tools). The goal of the updated version is to provide a more simple and concise method and will be completed in 2021.
- Continue to revise and update regularly used audit tools.
- Strive to design pragmatic, user-friendly, action orientated audit tools.
- Explore the use of phone apps, iPad versions of our tools and use of Smartsheets for auditing.

Web Communications Manager and Web Master

Tanya Denich and Pamela Chalmers

New/Ongoing Initiatives

- Continued yearly training of all new Chapter Webmasters, training sessions.
- Ongoing support to both brand new and more experienced webmasters.
- Streamlining of webpages to increase visibility of resources and enhance functionality.
- Addition of National, International, Provincial and setting specific resources for COVID-19.
- Revision of Quick Links Resources and Publications, CNISP, AMR Resources webpages.
- Revamp of Audit Tool Webpages - in progress.
- Addition of new and updated resources (ie. Novel coronavirus, Lyme Disease, links to CSA Documents, Ebola).
- Improved synchronization between website, email and social media platforms.
- Supported event/webinar registration by creating registration platforms and evaluations for 38 events/webinars.



Future Planning

- Re-aligning website in according to suggestions of Fall 2020 Website Member Survey.
- Revamp of Standards and Guidelines Webpage planned to enhance searchability and end user experience.
- Addition of One Health Webpage as a new focus in IPAC.
- The 12th meeting of chapter webmasters planned for the 2021 conference, to allow networking and discussion of issues common to all chapter websites as well as information on new website.
- Work with CJIC editor to offer individual journal articles on website, with archived material being accessible.
- Event Registration and Payment for all Chapter Websites.
- Continue discussions with OSM to improve search engine on Website.
- Re-engagement/re-vitalization of Chapter Websites through use of social media and other tools.

Social Media Manager Kelsey Houston

It should come as no surprise that COVID-19 dominated everyone's news feeds over this past year. As such, the initiatives noted in last year's reports had to be on hold, and IPAC Canada focused on the dissemination of up-to-date and reliable COVID-19 information for our followers.

Amid the craziness, IPAC Canada continued to solidify our presence on social media, and even had a few exciting moments. We were engaged by the popular Canadian band The Arkells, have had some of our content liked by prominent Public Health figures such as Patty Hajdu, and were formally followed on Twitter by singer Anne Murray. We continued to try and engage our followers and actively encouraged responses to our shared content with the addition of their thoughts and ideas.

IPAC Canada currently has 3,029 followers in Twitter as of the publication of this report, and average profile visits for a 28 day period continue to rise (most recently by 16.8%). We have 1906 followers on Facebook, and our most recent analytic report for Page Views revealed an increase of 13%.

I look forward to a day when IPAC Canada can once focus on our previously mentioned Social Media goals. As a small step, I will be hosting our first Social Media Webinar for all IPAC Canada Members in 2021.



CHAPTERS & INTEREST GROUPS

Stephania Cloutier, BES BASc CPHI(c) CIC

The beginning of this term has been interesting to say the least. The pandemic brought with it challenges in engaging and meeting with Chapters, Interest Groups and Chapter Council. During the pandemic, our members have continued their important work of tackling infection prevention and control issues, yet they have found the time to show their support of IPAC Canada through committee work and communication.

Efforts to maintain our engagement with Chapter Presidents and Interest Group Chairs is important especially since we have not had the opportunity to meet in person. Soon after I assumed the role of Director I began emailing Chapter Presidents and Interest Group Chairs to first introduce myself and to ensure we keep the lines of communication open. Emails to the groups have encouraged the sharing of ideas, successes and challenges.

IPAC Canada updates and orientation for Chapters and Interest Groups have continued virtually. These meetings have provided participants with important information but also the opportunity to see each other's faces, even if only through the computer screen. Questions and concerns on how to navigate through this time while maintaining engagement was a common thread throughout these meetings. It is no doubt that our Chapters and Interest Groups have seen challenges; however, we have heard many stories of perseverance and resilience in each of our meetings.

Association News

"IPAC Inspired" is a new piece in our semi-annual Association News that highlights the work of our Chapters and Interest groups hoping to inspire others to think creatively and continue their very important work. The first 'IPAC Inspired' showcased IPAC CSO and their continued efforts to engage their membership by purchasing and utilizing their own presentation and communication software, GSuite. In doing this, IPAC CSO were able to create a virtual space for meetings, education and other Chapter business.

Moving Forward

Workload for all professionals in the infection control fields has been at an all-time high. In addition, lack of face to face networking has made engagement extremely difficult during this pandemic. We suspect these challenges will continue but we know our Chapters and Interest groups are resilient and the group of IPAC professionals dedicated to these groups are extraordinary!

IPAC Canada will continue to support these extraordinary members to the best of our ability. Big thank you and sincere appreciation for all of the continued efforts of all of our members. Stay safe.



DIRECTOR MD

Joseph Kim, MD FRCPC
Chair, Corporate Relations Committee



This was certainly a year to remember (or perhaps forget). The world was turned upside down, our bandwidths were stretched, and we got used to doing things we never had imagined. Personally and professionally it was a challenging year, but we did make it through and there is still much to get through. IPAC Canada was not spared the topsy-turvy year that was 2020. Our annual conference was cancelled. The Board got used to seeing each other on computer screens. As before, I tried to provide a physician's perspective (clinical and academic) on matters pertaining to IPAC Canada and its membership.

The Corporate Relations Committee (CRC) met virtually in November. Still there was active engagement from our industry partners. Thanks to few of our members (Brittany Cogdeill, Jim Gauthier, and André Côté), CRC policies were revised, updated and later approved by the IPAC Canada Board. There was a proposed change in corporate membership fee structure and an overall fee increase was agreed to by all our partners. A new CIC® scholarship is under development with the support of our Corporate Members. This initiative was tabled because of the pandemic but will be re-addressed in 2021.

In anticipation of things being different, there was also a robust discussion around our upcoming annual conference and ways to engage creatively with membership. Despite this being a virtual conference, it will certainly be a unique and fruitful experience for all.

This will be the last year that I serve as a Director on the IPAC Board. It has been a privilege to be part of a group of dedicated professionals who really care about their work and colleagues. I would like to thank all the Board members and Gerry Hansen. I have no doubt that the incoming Director (MD) will bring a strong and inspiring voice to the Board and the IPAC community.



PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

Stephen Palmer

As Public Representative for IPAC Canada, my role is to provide input on various matters, with specific interest in issues that have a public impact. Of utmost concern is the voice of the patients, their families and those impacted by the challenges IPAC Canada works to address.

In 2020, I participated in all Board discussions and advised on actions that would have a public impact. I was also fortunate to be able to advise on legacy funding and donations.

I was privileged to participate in our Annual Hill Day and the 2020 Hill Day was a success in terms of promoting the profile of IPAC Canada and our members and advocating information on AMR and surveillance.

More importantly, I cannot think of a word or phrase that has not been used to sum up the chaos that the last year has been for so many. That said, I have an endless list of platitudes and appreciation for the superhuman efforts of each of you. Not only did you do your jobs with passion and professionalism, but you also went beyond at every level. You worked endless hours, you volunteered at every opportunity and you raced into the fire while so many around you ran and hid. You sacrificed yourself, your families, precious moments, days, and weeks to battle this monster and you did it with smiles, compassion and humour and all the time thinking that you were "just doing your job."

If no one else says it, you are my heroes, plain and simple. You are the best of the best and you continue to amaze each and every day. So, thank you. I continue to stand in awe of your commitment, efforts, and energy. It is such an honour to be your Public Representative. Thank you for that privilege.



CANADIAN JOURNAL OF INFECTION CONTROL

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Devon Metcalf, MSc PhD CIC Associate Editor

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Mandate of Committee

Continue to develop the CJIC as an indexed peer review journal.

Activities

- 17 manuscript submissions, 6 (38%) Canadian authorship
- Webinar presentation: Abstract to Manuscript (March 11, 2020)
- Transitioned to a new Editor-in-Chief, Jim Ayukekbong
- Increased social media presence; a LinkedIn CJIC page was created. CJIC now has 139 followers on LinkedIn and 69 on Twitter.
- Expansion and internalization of editorial team by considering external reviewers to review manuscripts. There is also a call for international experts in the field of infection prevention and control and epidemiology to join the editorial board.



OPERATIONS REPORT

Gerry Hansen, Executive Director

The following is a summary of operational activities as related to the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

INSPIRE BRAND AWARENESS

From WHO declaration of a pandemic, IPAC Canada received a great many calls and emails from the public inquiring about COVID-19. Most of the questions were around the protocols of social distancing, travel, self-isolation and quarantine. Later, as masks were recommended, questions arose about the wearing of masks, the availability of masks, and the use of N95 and other PPE. We received requests for consultation and guidance from various professions and organizations, most particularly in their preparation to 'Return to Work'. Members of IPAC Canada participated in guidance development at F/P/T tables. Several interviews were given to media including national media outlets, and various publications.

In order to engage colleagues in the dental settings, the IPAC Canada Routine Practices E-Learning Tool was promoted to 700 dental offices in Southern Ontario. The RP E-Learning Tool and the Hand Hygiene E-Learning Module have been prescribed by many regulatory bodies as necessary for completion before professionals return to work.

NURTURE MEMBER VALUE AND ENGAGEMENT

Most of our chapters and interest groups tabled their activities in 2020 due to the pandemic. By the end of 2020, many were revitalizing. It is noted that most of the chapters and interest groups did their best to maintain communication with their members during the year. Due to change in focus and lack of member involvement, the Network of Networks was disbanded in 2020. However, those who are in government leadership positions have maintained their communication network through IPAC Canada.

A series of short surveys was launched with topics on Education, the Website, and Publications. The results of the Education survey show support for a series of Advanced Practice webinars, currently under development by the Education Core Committee. The Website survey will assist the Web Communications Manager and Webmaster in their thorough review of the website in 2021. The survey on Publications indicated satisfaction from members on the scope and delivery of IPAC Canada's various publications. However, these will be part of the review of Communication in 2021.

At the request of membership, a new Group Membership was launched with the January 1, 2021 renewals. This membership status combines the previous 'Institutional' membership with a new membership for those who report to the same Director/Supervisor but are not in the same office.

A heartfelt 'Thank you' video was completed in the fall of 2020, showing our appreciation to our ICPs and front line workers. A Supplement featuring the 'Front Line Heroes' of IPAC was included with the summer Canadian Journal of Infection Control.

ADVANCE ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP

Corporate Membership has increased to 25 in 2020. We are grateful to our scholarship and project sponsors who have generously provided the means for members to attend the 2021 Virtual Conference.

Hill Day 2020 was held in February 2020. Fourteen Board members and other local members participated in several meetings with ministers and staff in Ottawa. The focus of Hill Day 2020 was AMR. In response to the pandemic, IPAC Canada later submitted a Federal Pre-Budget Submission which recommended increased federal health transfers with a dedicated stream of funding for IPAC; investment in a national, integrated surveillance system; further investment in a national stockpile of PPE; and investment in a national program to combat the rise of vaccine hesitancy.

IPAC Canada advocated on behalf of members to ensure pandemic pay is paid to all ICPs, not just nurses. A brief was sent to the federal Ministers of Health and Labour and to all provincial health and labour ministers, advocating for fair pandemic pay for ICPs. As allocation of pandemic pay is a provincial matter, most of the funding had already been allocated.

IPAC Canada continues to participate on the bi-weekly meeting of the Chief Public Health Officer Health Professions Forum. The previously identified initiatives (AMR, Use of Legal Substances, Indigenous Health, and Dementia) have been tabled to allow for more discussion on COVID-19 and the vaccine roll out.

With the Health Standards Organization, IPAC Canada is participating in the development of an IPAC Recognition Program for LTC and residential homes. The purpose of this program is to provide recognition for IPAC practice awareness and adherence, and to foster improvement over the sector.

In late 2020, Public Health Ontario generously gave IPAC Canada the rights to their LTC Surveillance Toolkit. A series of webinars on the new toolkit and surveillance in acute care and long term care were held in late 2020 and early 2021.

The biannual publication "Industry Innovations" was published in the spring of 2020 (Waste Management). With the departure of the Editor, Madison Moon, the Executive Director will be Editor, with Guest Editors for each publication. The Guest Editors would be IPAC Canada members who have expertise in the specific topic. Thanks to Michael Rotstein, Guest Editor, for the spring 2020 issue.

IPAC Canada is a volunteer-driven association. We are deeply indebted to our members who have volunteered in several capacities, including chapter and interest group leadership, committees, and special projects. Thanks to the Board of Directors of IPAC Canada for their support and assistance during the year. Many thanks to our staff and other professional support for their dedication to the success of IPAC Canada.

